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CIA/SAVA / WIND 721021



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending October 21 1972

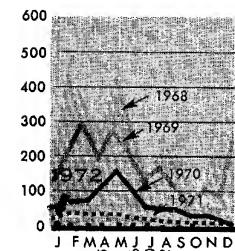
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

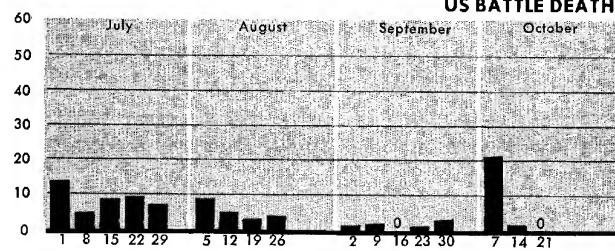
1968-1972
Weekly average for each month



JULY 1972 – OCTOBER 1972
Weekly data as reported

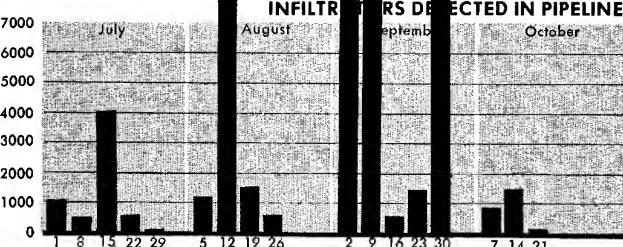
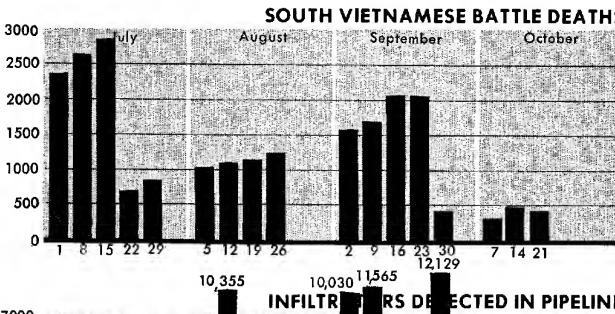
US BATTLE DEATHS

dropped to zero from the two of last week.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

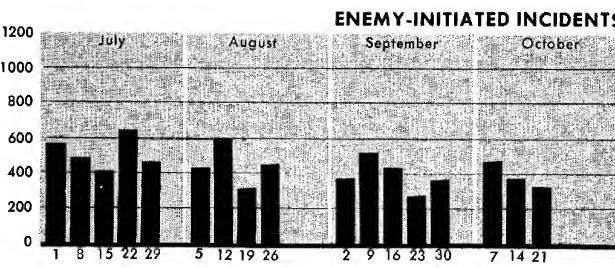
totaled 480 this week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



include seven special purpose groups totaling 117 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for Cambodia - South Vietnam since 1 October 1972 is now 1,700 - 2,700.

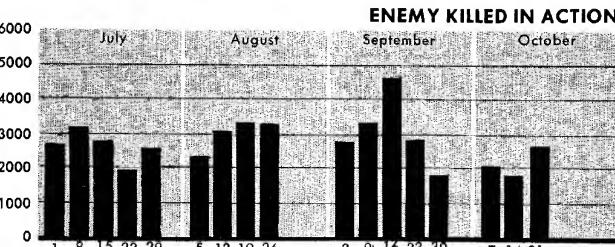
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

declined to 330 from the 374 of last week.



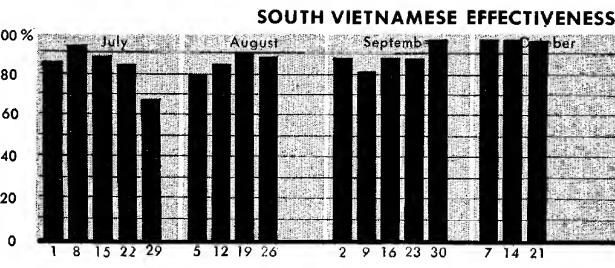
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

increased from last week's 1,722 to 2,785.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces stood at 99% -- the same level as the previous three weeks.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

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Enemy Activity

Despite the Communists' extensive (and extensively reported) plans to launch a highpoint beginning 20 October to seize more territory and population within South Vietnam (particularly near Saigon), the last few days have seen no marked rise in enemy activity. ARVN ground operations and allied airstrikes appear to have pre-empted the enemy's efforts, although it is still possible that the Communists may try to get off some sort of delayed highpoint in coming days. If no discernible highpoint materializes, however, this will probably be due to a lack of Communist capability rather than any Communist political decision to forego the long planned surge.

Overall, enemy-initiated activity during the past week remained at comparatively low levels, despite some increase in hostile probes in the Western Highlands of Military Region (MR) 2 and temporary interdiction of certain major highways in other parts of South Vietnam. In MR 3 and MR 4, Communist forces remain in forward positions, but the heavy losses of men and materiel that they have taken recently have reduced their capability for mounting major attacks. Until and unless a cease-fire comes, however, they will almost certainly continue their efforts to disrupt lines of communication, launch shelling and sapper attacks against allied military installations near urban centers, and expand their control over populated rural areas -- or at least their activities and deployments which could be exploited as a basis for claiming "control" over populated areas.

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[REDACTED] reporting now indicates that the Communists are indoctrinating their cadres to expect a cease-fire in the imminent future. The cadres are being told that once a cease-fire is announced, they should seek by all means to induce rural inhabitants who have left Viet Cong controlled areas to return to their homes. The cadres are being told not only that they must intensify political proselyting activity after a cease-fire, but also that VC military forces would support the political struggle by assassinating, kidnapping, and terrorizing GVN officials. (GVN contingency plans for a cease-fire contain similar provisions for dealing with Viet Cong sympathizers.)

In north Laos, General Vang Pao's irregulars have reoccupied the positions on the southern Plain of Jars they lost earlier this month, and units from Bouam Long, north of the Plain, have now returned to positions overlooking the enemy supply route from North Vietnam. The 1,900-odd Laotian irregular troops participating in the south Laos operation around Saravane have met stiff Communist opposition in and around the town and casualties are mounting. To the west of Saravane, government irregulars abandoned the town of Khong Sedone, but plans are in train to retake this town.

In Cambodia, the relative calm of the past two weeks along Route 1 was broken when the Communists hit FANK positions east of Neak Luong and engaged ARVN units south of Route 1 between Kompong Trabek and Svay Rieng. The enemy also continued to harass other major lines of communication, and was particularly active along Route 5 south of Kompong Chhnang, stalling a FANK clearing operation at one point and overrunning a FANK position at another. The Phnom Penh area was quiet, but according to a prisoner, a sapper regiment with a strength of some 1,500 is located about 18 miles west of Phnom Penh with the mission of harassing the capital for a "long time."

Infiltration and Logistics

During the past week, only about 100 personnel were detected in the Vinh area entering the infiltration system. Because of a slight downward adjustment in estimates for the previous several weeks, the total number of NVA infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 is now carried at 1,700-2,700.

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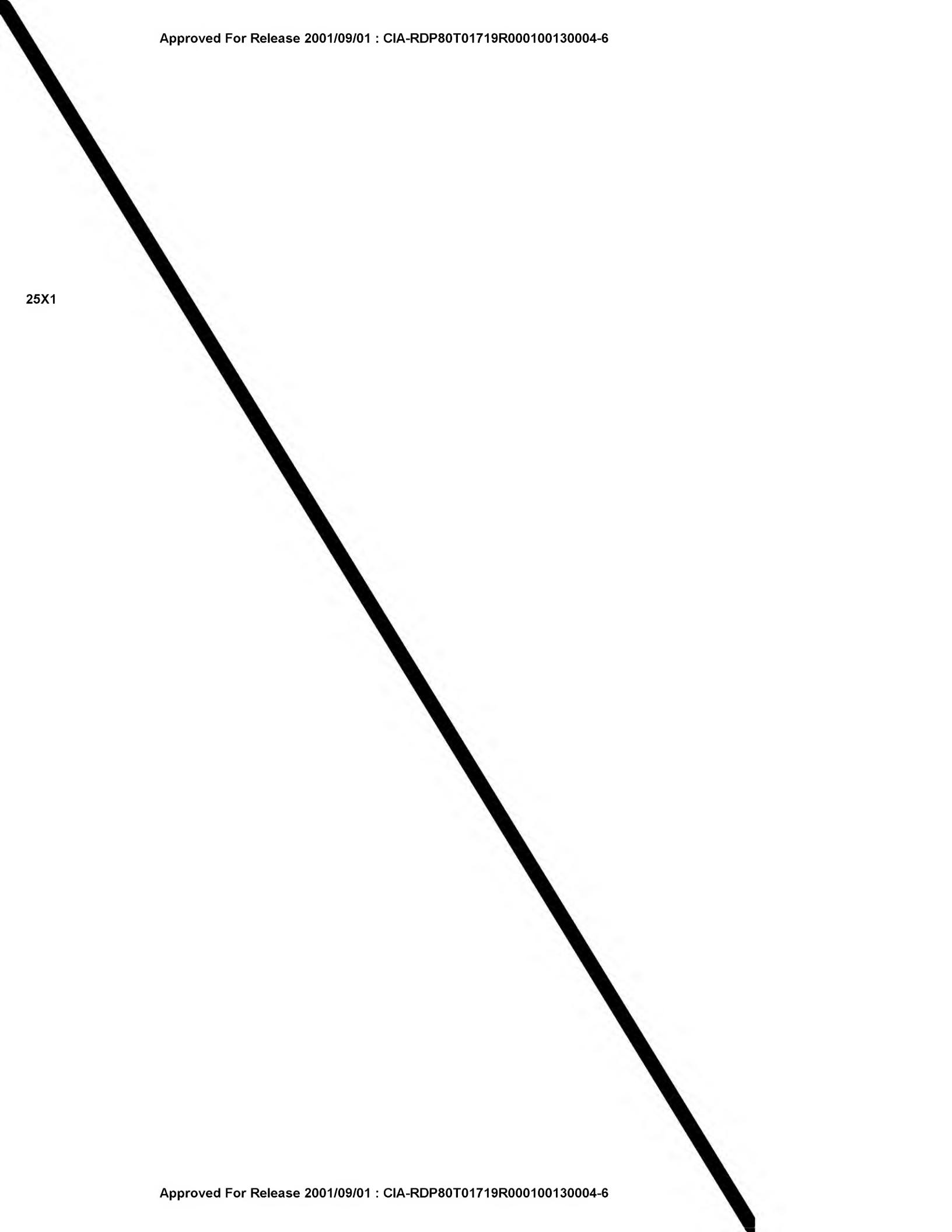
NSA

In the logistics area, the Communists are currently engaged in a major effort to move supplies southward within North Vietnam. [REDACTED]

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